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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

February 13, 2003

For immediate release

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COUNTIES SIGN UP WITH DNR TO EVALUATE ANIMAL CONFINEMENT SITING

DES MOINES – The DNR has received 20 resolutions from counties that want to participate in evaluating the proposed sites of large confinement facilities.

The following counties had filed a resolution with the DNR as of Feb. 12: Adair, Appanoose, Buena Vista, Calhoun, Davis, Delaware, Dubuque, Emmet, Fremont, Greene, Guthrie, Hancock, Humboldt, Jackson, Lucas, Monona, Poweshiek, Tama, Webster and Worth.

Counties must adopt and file a construction evaluation resolution by Feb. 28, 2003, to evaluate construction permit applications with the master matrix through January of next year.

Producers in counties that file the resolutions must meet higher standards than other permitted sites.

They must earn points on the master matrix by choosing a site and using practices that reduce impacts on the environment and the community.

Participating counties must evaluate and make a recommendation on all construction permit applications submitted to the DNR or they forfeit the right to evaluate sites until the next sign-up period.

Sign-ups will occur annually during the month of January starting in 2004.

Additional information about the master matrix is available on the DNR web site under animal feeding operations at www.iowadnr.com.

For more information, contact Tammie Krausman at (515) 281-8382.

ALTERNATIVE OIL FILTERS COULD SAVE STATE MONEY

DES MOINES — An innovative oil filtration system for trucks and heavy machinery could save the State of Iowa hundreds of thousands of dollars per year and reduce significantly the amount of waste oil that must be managed.

Bart Anglin, vice president for Environmental Systems of Elkhorn, Neb., asked the state to install his company's Enviro-Kleen oil filtration system on state vehicles, including heavy equipment. In a Feb. 6 presentation to the Senate Environmental Committee, Anglin estimated the state would save almost \$500,000 in maintenance costs over the first two years if it were to use the filter system on 5,482 vehicles. In addition, Anglin said the system would reduce the amount of waste oil generated by more than 273,000 gallons per year and divert nearly 70,000 oil filters from Iowa's landfills.

In conjunction with the Iowa Motor Trucking Association, Environmental Systems tested its filter system on vehicles from six Iowa companies that use trucks and heavy machinery during a year-long pilot project. All companies involved in the project reported significant cost savings associated with oil changes.

Funding for the project came from the DNR's Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP). Tom Anderson, a DNR senior environmental specialist and SWAP administrator, said the project was a success.

"Both oil lab analysis and testimonials indicate the filter performed successfully. In addition cost savings resulted from decreased oil purchases, extending the number of miles driven between oil changes.," Anderson said. "We've seen that money can be saved, but just as important to the DNR, it decreases the amount of waste oil requiring management and diverts used oil filters from landfills. Any time you find a way to save money and protect the environment, you've got a successful project."

Anglin outlined two reasons the bypass-type filter system allows fewer oil changes. First, it uses a filter element that removes particles down to one micron, as opposed to 30-40 microns for standard oil filters, resulting in cleaner oil and less engine abrasion. The system also can trap up to a quart of water, which minimizes internal engine corrosion.

"We've taken oil samples from vehicles that have run 60,000 miles, and then again at Anglin said. "The oil samples at 130,000 miles were actually cleaner than those taken at 60,000 miles."

While the system was designed primarily for large trucks and heavy machinery, Anglin said systems are available for pickup trucks and large automobiles, as well.

Environmental Systems has prototypes for automobiles and hopes to market those in the near future.

At \$249, not including installation, the filter systems are expensive compared to standard filters. However, Anglin said the reduced maintenance costs over the life of the vehicle justifies the higher cost.

“Once the system installed, you only have to change the filter element, which costs about Anglin said. “We know these filters will last at least 10 years, so if you only have to change your oil half as often, you save money.”

Anglin said the state’s annual savings in maintenance costs would jump to nearly \$1 million once the systems were paid off, which would take two years.

For more information, contact Tom Anderson at (515) 281-8623, or by e-mail at tom.anderson@dnr.state.ia.us.

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NEW SEPARATION DISTANCES FOR ANIMAL CONFINEMENT CONSTRUCTION ON DNR WEBSITE

DES MOINES — Required distances that animal confinements must meet for construction are now available on the DNR web site at www.iowadnr.com.

Starting March 1, producers who want to build or expand a confinement feeding operation will have to meet new separation distances from other buildings, public use areas and environmentally sensitive areas.

“We’ve added five tables to the web to help producers determine the new separation distances that they must meet,” said Sara Smith, DNR environmental engineer.

The new distances are required by Senate File 2293, passed last year, and are based on animal units. Expansions of existing operations constructed before March 1, 2003, must meet separation distances based on animal weight capacity.

“These tables should make it much easier for producers who are considering construction or an expansion to determine what distance they have to build from neighbors and environmentally sensitive areas.”

Depending on the size of operation, a manure management plan or a construction permit application may be required by the DNR before construction.

For more information, contact Sara Smith at 515-242-5521, Karen Grimes at 515-281-5135 or a DNR animal feeding operations engineer at 515-281-8941.

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DICKINSON COUNTY HEARING CONTINUED, EPC RESCHEDULED

DES MOINES – The Environmental Protection Commission meeting scheduled for Feb. 17, will meet at 10 a.m. as originally scheduled.

The meeting had been moved to earlier in the day to accommodate a hearing on a proposed confinement site in Dickinson County. However, the DNR has cancelled the hearing after receiving a request for a continuance from the Dickinson County board of supervisors on Wednesday.

The meeting will be held at the DNR office, 7900 Hickman Road in Urbandale. Public participation is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. The meeting is open to the public.

For more information, contact Karen Grimes at 515-281-5135.

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DNR OFFERS MANURE MANAGEMENT TRAINING IN NEWTON MARCH 4

DES MOINES – Livestock and poultry producers can learn how to prepare a manure management plan at a DNR workshop in Newton on March 4.

The training session will be held from 10 a.m. to noon at the Farm Bureau Building, 425 First Ave. East, in Newton.

DNR specialists who review the plans will provide tips on how to prepare a plan that will be approvable after it's submitted. Producers can expect to learn what needs to be included in the plan, how to do calculations and what supplemental information must be attached.

Producers can also expect to learn about the records they must keep, annual submittals and new fees.

After this training, there should be no surprises about what's expected in a manure management plan or recordkeeping.

Producers will also meet the inspectors who will be visiting confinement feeding operations and inspecting manure management plan records.

Although there is no charge for the workshop, please pre-register with the DNR Des Moines field office by calling 515-725-0268.

Additional information and the forms for manure management plans can be found under animal feeding operations at www.iowadnr.com or directly at <http://www.state.ia.us/epd/wastewtr/feedlot/manure.htm>.

For more information, contact Jim Stricker at 515-725-0270.